

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 286837

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRG POLITICS: CDU-CSU SPLIT

A. WHY?

CONGEN MUNICH REPORTS THAT THE CSU DECISION TO END ITS
ALLIANCE WITH THE CDU WAS APPARENTLY ENGINEERED BY
CHAIRMAN STRAUSS AND A FEW KEY LIEUTENANTS. IN ADDITION
TO BEING OPPOSED TO KOHL AND SEVERAL CDU REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, STRAUSS WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY:

--THE BELIEF THAT THE CDU AND CSU WILL HAVE A
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BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING A BUNDESTAG MAJORITY BY

CAMPAIGNING SEPARATELY; AND

--THE ADVANTAGE OF STRIKING A SEPARATE BARGAIN WITH
THE CDU ON EACH MAJOR ISSUE BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MUNICH 2853, 11/22.

B. WHAT NOW?

EMBASSY BONN CONSIDERS THE CDU-CSU SPLIT A POSSIBLE
TURNING POINT IN GERMAN POLITICAL HISTORY. WHILE IT MAY
BE A BOON TO THE RULING SPD-FDP COALITION IN THE SHORT-
TERM, THE LONG-RANGE IMPLICATIONS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.
POSSIBLE SCENARIOS INCLUDE:

--SPD/CDU AND/OR CDU/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENTS; OR

--THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FDP, WITH ITS VOTES
SPLIT BETWEEN A MORE LIBERAL CDU ON THE LEFT AND A
NATIONAL CSU ON THE RIGHT.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 19673, 11/22.

2. YUGOSLAVIA: SPECULATIONS ON CHANGE

EMBASSY BELGRADE BELIEVES THAT PRESIDUM MEMBER KARDELJ'S
ILLNESS, THE UPCOMING COMMUNIST LEAGUE CONGRESS, AND
NATIONAL "ELECTIONS" HAVE FED CURRENT SPECULATION ABOUT:

--THE RESHUFFLING OF TOP PARTY AND GOVERNMENT JOBS;

--THE FURTHER WITHDRAWAL OF TITO FROM ACTIVE
POLITICS; AND

--THE CREATION OF A NEW "POLITICAL BUREAU" WITHIN
THE PARTY HIERARCHY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE SOME SENIOR JOBS MAY CHANGE
HANDS BEFORE 1978, WE DO NOT EXPECT A TOTAL RESHUFFLING
BEFORE THEN, BARRING A SUDDEN DETERIORATION IN TITO'S
HEALTH. GIVEN HIS PAST INTOLERANCE TOWARD AMBITIOUS
SUBORDINATES, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TITO WILL RELINQUISH
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POWER COMPLETELY BEFORE HE DIES. TRANSFERS AND REFORMS
BEFORE 1978 WOULD TARNISH THE IMAGE OF STABILITY AND
CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH YUGOSLAVS ARE ANXIOUS TO
PROJECT. (SECRET) BELGRADE 7652, 11/22.

3. SAUDI VISIT TO ALGERIA

EMBASSY ALGIERS REPORTS THAT BOTH SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

SAUD AND PRINCE FAHD VISITED ALGIERS LATE LAST WEEK.
THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES,
INCLUDING THE PRESS, THAT THESE VISITS MAY REFLECT A
MORE MODERATE ALGERIAN STANCE TOWARD BOTH THE SAHARA AND

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4. NIGERIAN TRADE SURPLUS SHRINKS

EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THE NIGERIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
SURPLUS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 WAS LESS THAN HALF THAT
OF THE COMPARABLE PERIOD LAST YEAR. THE DECLINE RESULTED
FROM A 55 PERCENT INCREASE IN IMPORTS WHICH OFFSET A 44
PERCENT RISE IN EXPORTS LED BY PETROLEUM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NEARLY ALL OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND
MANY IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND THE CENTRAL BANK BELIEVE
THE NIGERIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WILL GO IN THE RED SOON,
ALTHOUGH THE ANTICIPATED OPEC OIL PRICE HIKE MAY PROP UP
THE CURRENT ACCOUNT FOR A TIME. WITHIN THE FORSEEABLE
FUTURE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO TURN TO OVERSEAS
CAPITAL MARKETS TO FINANCE ITS DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LAGOS 13138, 11/22.

5. ZAIRE: NO CHANGES (?)

PRESIDENT MOBUTU ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 19 THAT, CONTRARY
TO RUMORS, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT
OR POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE.

EMBASSY KINSHASA COMMENT: RUMORS OF CHANGE IN KINSHASA
ARE OFTEN QUITE ACCURATE. IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME CHANGE
IS IN THE OFFING, BUT COULD WELL BE POSTPONED UNTIL
AFTER THE PARTY CONGRESS IN MAY. IN ANY EVENT, MOBUTU

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REMAINS THE MASTER OF STRATEGY, KEEPING ALL OTHER
POLITICAL PLAYERS OFF BALANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINSHASA
9804, 11/22.

6. MOTO AMARAL DISSATISFIED WITH LISBON

AFTER A RECENT TRIP TO LISBON, AZOREAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT
MOTO AMARAL TOLD THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE GOP'S
INCAPACITY EXCEEDED THE MOST PESSIMISTIC REPORTS.
ACCORDING TO MOTO AMARAL, THE GOP:

--REFUSED TO FINANCE THE REGION'S BUDGET DEFICIT,
WHICH MIGHT NECESSITATE "SAFEGUARDING AZOREAN
INTERESTS" IN RELATION TO THE LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS;

--SAT ON A PROPOSAL FOR TRANSFERRING PERIPHERAL
GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO REGIONAL CONTROL AND RE-
MAINED INTRANSIGENT ABOUT PAYING PAST-DUE SUBSIDIES
TO AZOREAN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS; AND

--DELIBERATELY CREATED PROBLEMS WITH THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT TO PROVOKE AN AZOREAN REACTION TO USE TO
ITS OWN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE.

CONSULATE COMMENT: MOTO AMARAL'S HARSH WORDS ARE
MOTIVATED BY PARTISAN POLITICS AND THE GOP'S LACK OF
SUPPORT FOR THE AZORES. IF THE GOP WILL NOT PROVIDE
FINANCING, THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT WILL BECOME THE ONLY
SOURCE OF FUNDS TO COVER THE AZOREAN BUDGET DEFICIT AND
TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PONTA DELGADA
473, 11/21/76. KISSINGER

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